

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 FRANKF 07368 051225Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

/055 W

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P R 040933Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5729

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USCINCEUR

USAREUR

USAFE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINE 5 DELETE (DEE PARA 3 ABOVE)

USCINCEUR, USAREUR AND USAFE FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SUBJECT: CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN HESSE

REF : FRANKFURT 7331 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS SOON AS THE POLLS CLOSED FOR THE BUNDESTAG  
ELECTIONS AT 1800 ON OCTOBER 3, HESSEN SPD MINISTER-  
PRESIDENT ALBERT OSSWALD ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION  
AND WITH IT THE AUTOMATIC RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE  
SPD/FDP COALITION GOVERNMENT IN HESSE. OSSWALD'S  
RESIGNATION CAME A LITTLE SOONER THAN EXPECTED BY  
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PAGE 02 FRANKF 07368 051225Z

PERHAPS 12 TO 24 HOURS. HE AND HIS CABINET WILL

CONSTITUTE A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT UNTIL A SUCCESSOR  
IS ELECTED BY THE LANDTAG VOTING BY SECRET BALLOT.

2. THE SUCCESSION CRISIS IN HESSE IMMEDIATELY  
OCCUPIED THE SPD LEADERSHIP INCLUDING CHANCELLOR  
SCHMIDT WHO WAS REPORTED BY HIS SPOKESMAN TO BE IN A  
DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN THE EARLY EVENING HOURS  
OF ELECTION DAY. WHILE THE FORMAL DECISION IS TO BE  
MADE IN JOINT MEETING OF HESSE'S SPD GOVERNING BOARD  
AND THE SPD DELEGATION IN THE WIESBADEN LANDTAG ON  
MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4 IT ALREADY SEEMS CERTAIN  
THAT HOLGER BOERNER, SPD NATIONAL MANAGER AND NORTH  
HESSEN DISTRICT CHAIRMAN WILL BE THE SPD/FDP CANDIDATE  
TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT IN WIESBADEN.

3. HESSEN CDU CHAIRMAN ALFRED DREGGER HAS MOVED QUICKLY  
TO CAPITALIZE ON HIS PARTY'S GAINS IN HESSEN ON  
OCTOBER 3 (44.8 PERCENT OF SECOND VOTES CAST COMPARED  
TO 40.3 PERCENT IN 1972 AS WELL AS THE STRONG CDU  
POSITION ON THE LAND LEVEL WITHIN  
AN HOUR OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OSSWALD'S RESIGNATION  
HE PUBLICLY OFFERED THE FDP THE PROSPECT OF A COALITION  
WITH THE CDU IN WIESBADEN. WHETHER THIS POLY WORKS  
OR NOT-AND IT IS NOT LIKELY TO - THE FDP IS CLEARLY  
UNDER PRESSURE. ALTHOUGH THE LOCAL FDP LEADERSHIP  
HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT BOERNER  
IS ACCEPTABLE AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT THE FDP  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR HESSEN WILL VOTE ON THE ISSUE  
ONLY ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9. SINCE THE COALITION  
HAS ONLY A THIN MARGIN IN THE HESSEN LANDTAG (49 SPD  
PLUS 8 FDP MEMBERS VERSUS 53 CDU DELEGATES) THERE IS  
LITTLE MARGIN FOR POSSIBLE DEFECTIONS IN WHAT WILL BE  
A SECRET VOTE ON OSSWALD'S SUCCESSOR. LEHMANN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 OCT 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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